diverse and curious phenomena met with in cancer." "Cancer is caused by the infection of a body cell, and there are therefore as many kinds of cancer as there are different kinds of body cells."

The major source of infection by the cancer germ is considered to be from the soil and through foods. Thus, care in what we put into our stomachs is considered the first line of defense in the prevention of cancer.

In addition to developing his unique and unproved hypothesis, Dr. Abelmann emphasizes the need of early diagnosis, public education and periodic examination. He suggests that a national cancer day should be set aside to make the public cancer-conscious.

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DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICINE. By Harold A. Abramson, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Physiology, Columbia University. The Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, 565 Park Avenue, New York 21. 1950. 41 pages. $1.00.

A sharp tool is a terrible temptation—for instance, mathematics. As a former sinner, the reviewer sympathizes with Dr. Abramson, but unhappily the author's dimensional analysis and sympodism and psychomotive forces are not impressive. His introductory statement, "No amount of purely mathematical reasoning can ever take into consideration the complexity of the emotional factors," may some day prove exaggerated, in consequence of vector analysis; but even granting the power of mathematics, this reviewer is not a bit converted to Dr. Abramson's eagerness to pump that kind of reasoning into psychiatrists.

Students of medicine, to all of whom Dr. Abramson directs his book, will (1) as a body prefer to work at the care of patients, or (2) if in research medicine, prefer fuller treatment of the subject, such as Griffin's "Mathematical Analysis" and Fisher's "Statistical Methods for Research Workers."

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METHODS IN MEDICINE—The Manual of the Medical Service of George Dock, M.D., Sc.D., Formerly Professor of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine; Formerly Physician-in-Chief, Robert A. Barnes Hospital, St. Louis. A Comprehensive Outline for Clinical Investigation, Management and Treatment of Patients with Various Medical Disorders. By George R. Herrmann, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Second edition, completely revised. 488 pages. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1950. $7.50.

This book is presented as a practical bedside guide for the clinical investigation of the common as well as some of the more rare medical conditions. It is intended for interns, residents, and practitioners, and details what the author considers minimal requirements for diagnostic study and medical management. Dr. Herrmann calls it a revision of the manual which he published 26 years ago, but actually it is a new book. Despite this the author, unfortunately, has hung on to certain items which, though useful in 1925, are of historical interest only in 1951.

The book has both good and bad points. It can be very handy as a compendium, listing a variety of information in its contents. It includes data on methods of history and physical examination, laboratory procedures and therapeutic methods. The material shown has very definite interest, but the reviewer finds himself not infrequently at a loss to explain why some items are in and others out. For instance, in a short summary of antibiotics, such a little-used one as Nisulfazole is given mention in the quite limited space available. The bibliography is also spotty: References are given for the management of renal stones and peripheral vascular disease, but none for irritable colon, nephritis or rheumatoid arthritis. Some of the methods are followed through thoroughly, but many others end up in a blind alley. In this regard one may mention the discussions on biopsy of muscle (page 163) and on the technique for counting peripheral blood (pages 44-48). If one did not already know the techniques, he would have to look further than this book.

The style is very authoritative, which may irritate some readers, particularly when statements are inaccurate; for example, on page 277 the author states that the Takata test "has been found to be positive in any disease in which the serum globulin is over 3 per cent" (an erroneous conclusion of the year 1934).

The book cannot be recommended to the practitioner to employ for casual reference or detailed investigation on a given case. On the other hand, in a hospital which may adopt it as a methodology, it has a field of usefulness as a vade mecum for the intern.

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SKULL FRACTURES AND BRAIN INJURIES. By Harry E. Mock, M.D., Consulting Surgeon, St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, Associate Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. 806 pages. $13.50.

A very comprehensive review of head injuries, skull fractures and brain injuries, written from the standpoint of the general surgeon. The author has had a most extensive experience in the management of head injuries and presents a very complete account of his wide experience. Since the vast majority of head injuries are seen by those other than neurosurgeons, this volume represents an excellent addition to the library of every practicing physician.

It is written in too great detail to be used as a textbook, but can be heartily recommended as a complete source of reference concerning the diagnosis, management and complications of head injuries. Dr. Mock presents a plan of management of these patients which, if adequately followed, no doubt would result in a definite lessening of mortality from such injuries. Many controversial points are discussed, and included therein are the views of numerous specialists in neurological surgery.

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THE CLINICAL USE OF RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES. By Bertram V. A. Low-Beer, M.D., Associate Professor of Radiology, University of California Medical School, San Francisco, Calif. Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1950. $9.50.

Part One, 128 pages, concerns physics, measurements, and radiation hygiene, with seven tables and 27 figures, a list of 43 books, and references to 40 authors, not keyed into text. Part Two, clinical applications, fills the rest of the book, including bibliography of 11 books and 327 references keyed into text. There is also an appendix of useful factual data and dosage computations and an extensive table of isotopes. The index is fairly detailed, occupying 25 columns, and omits authors. This part has 58 figures, also four pages of color plates concerning the author's investigation of P_{32} on blotting paper for treatment of skin lesions. Many of the figures are graphs, which with 34 tables give a good quantitative understanding.

This volume, in contrast to so many "edited" textbooks recently published, is all by one hand, which gives it a good unity of treatment. The coverage is very broad. The numerous clinical investigations with tracers and for therapy are grouped under the isotope concerned (12 elements). Therapy with P_{32}, Na_{24}, I_{131} and Co_{60} is covered in a chapter of 65 pages, preceded by 16 pages on the computation of internal dosage. The author is a practitioner of radiation therapy of long and wide experience, with a thorough grounding and containing professional contacts for nuclear physics and radiobiology. This wedding of theory and clinical experience in the one mind gives the book an unusually firm foundation. With the advances attained already and the bright future promise of radioisotopes in clinical medicine, every radiologist would do well to read this book and keep it handy.